

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 2503-1193

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Valentino MERCATI

Application No. 10/564,100

Filed: January 9, 2006

Confirmation No.

Group Art Unit:

Examiner Unknown

Title: **PROCESS FOR OBTAINING TOBACCO LEAVES WITH A
STANDARDIZED NICOTINE CONTENT AND/OR IMPROVED
COMBUSTIBILITY**

THIRD REQUEST: SMALL ENTITY CLAIM AND REQUEST FOR REFUND

Mail Stop 16
Attention Refunds Branch
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant hereby claims small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27 and requests that 1/2 of the original filing fee, namely \$590.00 be credited to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 as this claim is filed within the three-month term. The original request, as evidenced by the accompanying stamped postcard, was filed on March 15, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Benoit Castel

Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

Repln. Ref: 01/11/2007 VWALLACE 0011501600
DAB:250120 Name/Number:10564100
FC: 9204 \$590.00 CR

BC/llb

Date: March 15, 2006



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

APPL NO.	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
10/564,100	02/24/2006	1731	590	2503-1193		23	1

CONFIRMATION NO. 7193

466
 YOUNG & THOMPSON
 745 SOUTH 23RD STREET
 2ND FLOOR
 ARLINGTON, VA 22202

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT



OC000000021963567

Date Mailed: 01/11/2007

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Valentino Mercati, Sansepolcro, ITALY;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 00466.

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a 371 of PCT/IB04/02222 07/07/2004

Foreign Applications

ITALY M12003A001442 07/15/2003

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 03/29/2006

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US10/564,100**

Projected Publication Date: Not Applicable

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**** SMALL ENTITY ****

Title

Process for obtaining tobacco leaves with a standardized nicotine content and/or improved combustibility

Preliminary Class

131

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER Title 35, United States Code, Section 184 Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO.

10/564100

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
FEE RECORD SHEET

01/11/2007 VWALLACE 00000004 10564100

01 FC:2631	150.00	OP
02 FC:2633	100.00	OP
03 FC:2642	200.00	OP
04 FC:2615	75.00	OP
05 FC:2617	65.00	OP

Adjustment date: 01/11/2007 VWALLACE
01/17/2006 GFREY1 00000079 10564100
01 FC:1631 -300.00 OP

01/17/2006 GFREY1 00000079 10564100

01 FC:1631	300.00	OP
02 FC:1642	400.00	OP
03 FC:1633	200.00	OP
04 FC:1617	130.00	OP
05 FC:1615	150.00	OP

02 FC:1642 -400.00 OP

03 FC:1633 -200.00 OP

04 FC:1617 -130.00 OP

05 FC:1615 -150.00 OP

Repln. Ref: 01/11/2007 VWALLACE 0011501600
DAH:250120 Name/Number:10564100
FC: 9204 \$590.00 CR

PTO-1556
(5/87)

U.S. Government Printing Office: 2002 — 489-387/00033

BEST AVAILABLE COPY